



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

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George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

- ! The United States Environmental Protection Agency announced Security Planning Grants for Large Drinking Water Utilities on March 29, 2002. The grant program will disburse \$89 million nationally to large water supplies serving 100,000 or more people to improve safety and security. Illinois has 21 systems of this size, however, five of these are privately owned which makes them ineligible for this grant. The \$89 million is intended to reduce the vulnerability of water utilities to terrorist attacks and to enhance their security and ability to respond to emergency situations. Grant funds cannot be used for physical improvements but can be used to develop a vulnerability assessment, an emergency response or operating plan, or security enhancement plans and designs. The United States EPA will award up to \$115,000 to each eligible utility system and will accept applications through April 29, 2002. Applications submitted after that date will be considered on a funds-available basis. Eligible utilities will not be allowed to claim funds for work already completed or if the work has already been completed in the three identified areas. Once the work is completed, the utility will have to certify that it was done in accordance with U.S. EPA requirements but will not have to submit the work product. For more information or an application, go to www.epa.gov/safewater/security/rfa_large_grants.html or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.
- ! The Volunteer and Donations Management Committee of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force held its first meeting on Friday, March 29, 2002. The American Red Cross, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Department of Human Services, Department of Public

Health and the Governor's Office are serving on the committee, as well as a number of outside groups such as Church World Services and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The committee is addressing issues of human, capital, and financial resources needed to provide effective disaster response and recovery. The committee will be meeting at least monthly to work on these issues.

- ! On Thursday, March 28, 2002, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) conducted a quarterly meeting of the Bioterrorism Committee to the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) in Oakbrook Terrace to discuss the development of a statewide plan to implement a quarantine as a result of an act of bioterrorism. The IDPH Chief Counsel provided a comprehensive overview of IDPH and Illinois Emergency Management Agency emergency powers. Subcommittee members will review existing sheltering and quarantine plans from other states and develop a statewide response plan which will be submitted to the ITTF for review and approval. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2002 in Oakbrook Terrace.

- ! The IDPH continues to be involved in the development of FY02 bioterrorism preparedness and response grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Grant applications are due on April 15, 2002. The IDPH has worked closely with a statewide local health department liaison group, LARIAT (Local Agency Rapid Implementation and Action Team), to ensure coordination and collaboration of proposed grant activities with local health authorities. The first drafts of CDC and HRSA grant applications have been constructed and are being reviewed by LARIAT and senior state agency staff. The final version of both grants will be submitted to the Office of Homeland Security in early April.

- ! Emergency planners from Exelon and the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) met last week to review proposed changes in the utility's emergency classification level (ECL) methodology. As part of an ongoing effort to standardize ECL determinations and the incorporation of the Clinton Power Station under Exelon's corporate emergency planning program, technical parameters for accident classifications at each of the nuclear plants were reviewed. Changes to the ECL scheme will be submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for approval.
- ! IDNS and Central Management Services (CMS) met with Exelon who suggested the need to implement an interim approach to upgrading the Nuclear Accident Reporting System (NARS). As a means of improving the reliability of the emergency notification system, Exelon has proposed shifting the NARS from a hard wired commercial telephone network to the utility-owned fiber optic system which links all nuclear power stations with the Exelon Corporate Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) in Warrenville. From the EOF, the NARS would then be tied into the state's fiber optic link between Chicago and Springfield. CMS indicates the state link will be in service in another six months to a year. In the interim, it has been suggested that a computer data line be established to bring the NARS link from Warrenville to IDNS and IEMA in Springfield. That portion of the network would be moved to the state's fiber optic line when it becomes operational.
- ! Illinois has been joined by at least two other states, Washington and New York, in seeking clarification from the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding potassium iodide (KI) dosage guidelines for public use. The FDA issued age-related guidelines for KI use last year warning that children should be limited to lower doses not commercially available. With regards to the state's liability if dosage guidelines could not be reasonably addressed, the FDA advised compliance with its guidelines was voluntary.

! The Transportation Committee of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force will hold its first meeting on April 9, 2002.